

# CLAIMANTS UNITE



INCORPORATING CLAIMANTS NEWSPAPER No. 8

## FIGHT THE CUTS !

The Labour Government has gone back on its election promise to implement the child benefit scheme. The Act to introduce this scheme has been passed by Parliament and part of it has already been introduced in the form of Child Interim Benefit for single parents.

This is just one more attack on the living standards of the working class. Already we have had to face massive cuts in the social services and now since the TUC has agreed to another incomes policy we will have to be prepared for more cuts. Above all we as claimants will be the worse hit.

The BENEFIT RISES we had been expecting have been announced and they show how determined the government is to keep down our living standards. A lot of claimants had been expecting a rise in April. When this did not happen they thought it might be July. As we could have told them it will not be until November. And what rises a couple will get only £2.90 more - a single person only £1.80. IT WON'T EVEN COVER THE INCREASE IN FUEL BILLS let alone anything else. Just to show how mean the government can be they did not even stick to their rules, which since the last SS Act say that any rise has to be linked to the last six months inflation rate: this time they have linked the rise to what they hope will be the next six months inflation rate. A calculation which some groups like the Child Poverty Action Group think might actually be illegal.

But, of course, this is not all that the government has done. We are also being faced with a cutback in government spending rigidly enforced from the top which will mean fewer nursery places, less teachers etc etc...

A year ago Local Government was told that 'the party was over' now even further cuts are being planned. What hasn't gone already will now be endangered. HOUSING will be lucky to advance. Even where local authorities are trying to keep their present meagre housing records intact central government is trying to make them cut down. So councils are cracking down on squatters instead. They are the ones apparently who are keeping the waiting lists so long. Who do they think they are kidding. EDUCATION is being hit. Already thousands of teachers are on the dole. Many more are waiting to join them. And classes are getting bigger. In HOSPITALS the service is getting worse. Some are being closed down. Others are being left short of staff and equipment is not being replaced. AND ALL IN THE INTERESTS OF INCREASED PROFITS TO KEEP CAPITALISM AFLOAT.

But all this is not going by without resistance. Groups are forming to fight these cuts in our living standards. As claimants we are the hardest hit by these cuts. Already in the SS things are deteriorating so that visits take three months at some offices. We must fight back - we must join forces with all the other groups fighting the cuts. WE MUST JOIN WITH THOSE IN EMPLOYMENT WHO FIND THEMSELVES THREATENED. WE MUST JOIN WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS WHO ARE FIGHTING THE CUTBACKS IN OUR SOCIAL SERVICES. AND WE MUST DO SO BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.



# CLASS CONFLICT

Despite government regulation and intervention the British economy is still a capitalist one. Events and decisions are mainly determined by the private ownership of the means of production, regulation by the market, and the pursuit of profit. The majority of people are forced to seek and compete for employment in order to obtain wages with which to purchase the necessities of life such as food and housing. The small number of people who own the means of production wield enormous power. Capitalism is only interested in people as labour in so far as it produces profit: it is not concerned with promoting the intrinsic value of work but with the idea that the sole purpose of production is consumption.

Employees have no control over the workplace or its product (which may be socially useless or even positively harmful). Wage earners are subject to a great degree of control and supervision. They are frequently employed as mere appendages of machines, and their work experiences are often depriving. This experience results in alienation and such responses as detachment and sabotage. But the clear identity of interest between one employee and the next results in working class collectivism. When they perceive a basic conflict of interest between themselves and those who seek a 'satisfactory level of profit' on their 'investment' they are class conscious. Trade Union activity is the main expression of this inherent class conflict.

Shop floor militancy is one aspect of this. "We are all in hell together and you get a bond out of that. You can increase morale through the Union. Pull together rather than dog eat dog." Shop stewards are just ordinary employees who stick their necks out and survive because of their mates support. But Trade Unions are organised along sectional lines. Professional trade union officials are far removed from the harsh realities of the factory floor. Some trade unionists don't experience this power and control as directly as industrial workers. Some trade unionists are themselves involved in other aspects of social control such as social workers, teachers and police constables. Many white collar and craft unions wish to preserve differentials.

The modern state - 'a committee for managing the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie' - attempts to incorporate the trade unions in order to neutralise the threat they pose to the stability of capitalism.

The reaction of the trade union leaders during the 1926 General Strike showed how they had been assimilated into the establishment and were prepared to defend the status quo. Nye Bevan stated that "the trade union leaders were theoretically unprepared for the implications involved - they had forged a revolutionary weapon without having a revolutionary intent".

During the last 50 years the TUC has tried to ensure "peaceful plants and profitable enterprises in a stable economy". Successive governments have induced TU leaders to policies of "moderation" to accept the existing means of production and allocation of resources and to reject the idea of class conflict.

The present Labour government and the TUC have agreed on a policy of wage restraint which effectively reduces the living standards of most people in this country in order to retain 'profit margins' for capitalism. Britain's "greatness" has rested on the exploitation of its empire. If the price of raw materials continues to rise then the profit margin of British capitalism will be reduced unless it can persuade of force the working class to take a cut in real wages. Only militant activity by the rank and file employees can prevent this.

"Modern bourgeois society...that has conjured up such gigantic means of production and exchange is like the sorcerer who is no longer able to control the powers of the nether world whom he has called up by his spells"...."here it becomes evident that the bourgeoisie is unfit any longer to be the ruling class in society...its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable".

This article is an attempt to look at some of the factors in today's struggle. We would be pleased to receive any criticisms or further analyses for publication at Camberwell CU Union Place 122 Vassall Rd London SW9



## SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT CON !

CPAG invited David Donnison, chairman of the SBC, to speak at their annual conference on 8 May. His remarks were obviously tailoured to suit a group which he considers 'radical' and sometimes came over as downright patronising.

On the question of the future development of the system he says:

*"We shall look to well informed outsiders like the CPAG to help us. But for most of the evidence and analytical thought required to turn good ideas into practical schemes we must always rely heavily on officials at all levels of the service. I and other Commissioners have learnt what ever we know about these questions very largely from talking to the humane and experienced staff we have the good fortune to work with."*

In other words, the "humane and experienced" SS know best.

Professor Donnison considers that the SBC is "in danger of producing a system so complex that the average claimant cannot tell what he is entitled to and whether he is getting it." So what's new? If he's so worried about us not knowing if we're getting the right amount, what about automatic A124's? If we had paylips then we'd know if we were being fiddled. He then goes on to say that the Codes have become so complicated that even the officials don't understand them! Well that's what we've always said, nice of them to admit it at last.

We all know that the SS is trying to phase out discretionary payments by deductions and downright refusals. Donnison says that they have increased from 15% of claimants in 1971 to 34% by the end of 1975. But to his amazement we keep on appealing - we are "increasingly dissatisfied with what we get."

The CU Movement is opposed to discretion - it is divisive and discriminatory. But the SBC's opposition to it is based on the increased cost - it would be alright if only a few of us knew about it, but we keep asking for more. The 1966 Act is based on discretion - The SS cannot legally get rid of these powers by ignoring them or refusing to enforce them. While the benefit rates are so low that we cannot afford to live and while discretion is part of the system, then we must fight for the right to claim weekly additions and lump sum grants and fight against any attempts to reduce the scale rates by compulsory deductions.

Donnison admits that the SS are way behind the rest of the public services in "giving their customers a voice in their development" and says that "we must eventually demonstrate that we too are considering how claimants can be involved in running the service they depend on so heavily". Surely he doesn't mean claimant control of the SS? No, he doesn't. He was asked whom he considered to be the proper representatives of claimants. Did he mean the CU? No, of course he didn't. Not real live claimants. Not even the CPAG - they are a bit too 'left', no just the most right wing parts of the poverty lobby. Then we'd be watched over and policed by them as well as the rest of the soft cops. We must fight against representation by the poverty lobby 'on our behalf'. We are capable of controlling our own lives.

Of course claimants are not only ones who depend on the SS for their income. The rank and file workers, the CPSA members have a right to be involved in its running and should have our support in any demands they make in this direction. However, we all must recognise that the SS system is based on control of both the employed and the nonemployed. For the nonemployed the control is direct, for the employed the threat of it keeps us employed as wage slaves. This control will not be handed over freely. Concessions might be made, reforms implemented, minor 'participation' allowed - but all within the structure of the system. There is nothing to be lost by demanding economic and conditional changes, by demanding the abolition of their punitive and divisive rules and an end to secrecy and the right to access to our files and the Codes. But the system still remains. We have to ask ourselves if there is any thing to be gained by participating in the running of a system which is designed to serve capitalism against the interests of the working class.

**POWER  
NOT  
PARTICIPATION**



# THE LAW IS NEVER ON OUR SIDE !

On May 20th a member from West London Claimants Union was sentenced to 9 months imprisonment together with 3 other election workers from the Communist Party of England %Marxist Leninist:. One ogher was sentenced to Borstal and the fifth received a suspended sentence of 6 months

The case arose during the October 1974 General Election when they were campaigning in North Battersea for their party's candidate. After a series of open air meetings on the Saturday before polling day (during which they were under police surveillance) the police finally stopped them while they were returning to the election centre under the guise of investigating a theft of lead. Over 12 police 'suddenly' arrived on the scene and launched a totally unprovoked attack on them and within minutes a reinforcement of at least 15 police together with a number of 'so-called' ordinary members of the public (who just happened to be standing around the area armed with truncheons and assorted weapons). Such a strong resistance to this attack was put up by the election workers that it took the 30 police and their National Front thug accomplices over 40 minutes to get them into the police vans. While being taken to the station they were once again beaten up and again in the cells. Turning truth on its head it was they who were charged with assault.

The attack on the election workers was preplanned by the police in open collusion with the National Front. In the middle of an election they were attacked while carrying out their democratic right to politically organise for the party of their choice. This clearly shows the fraudulent nature of democracy under capitalism. There is no freedom for the working class to organise against their oppression.

In trying to suppress the exposure of the nature of democracy the State through its Courts was forced to show 'Justice' in its true colours. Throughout the three trials that followed it was clear that the interest of the court was not to judge the case impartially but to suppress the truth. In the first trial the police from the very beginning got completely tied up in knots trying to cover up their concoctions and explain away each others contradictory statements. During the proceedings the Magistrate tried every means possible to suppress

the real issues and to assist the prosecution. Eventually after only 7 days (spread over 3 months) he referred the case to a Crown Court.

The second trial at Knightsbridge Crown Court lasted only 14 days. Despite the Judge and court officials doing everything possible to cover up the flimsy justification for the attack the police were once again seen to be telling nothing but lies. So much so that five members of the jury were preparing to have the case thrown out of court for lack of evidence and (in the words of the Judge) 'engaged in derisory laughter' nearly every time the police gave evidence. Acting 'totally impartially' the judge then dismissed the jury and called for a retrial. His justification for this was that the jury were 'not impartial'.

Again in the third trial the judge made every attempt to aid the prosecution, including sending the defendants to jail on at least 10 different occasions for so-called 'contempt of court' and forcibly preventing them from questioning the police and their witnesses. Even to the extent of dragging them out of court. To ensure that justice was brought about he spent over 4 ~~00000~~ days summing up the prosecution case and only 2½ hours for the defence case. Despite all these attempts the State still could not cover up the blatant fabrications by the police. The police witnesses were totally exposed as open Racists and Fascists. Also the fact that there were 15 police waiting when the election workers car was stopped for a so-called 'spotcheck' concerning a ~~nonexistent~~ theft and numerous other strange facts emerged.

The attack on the election workers and the subsequent trials is a reflection of the growing Fascism that is developing in this society. The forces of the State were seen to be working hand in hand with the Nazis. It is only one example of the attacks by the state on the rights of the working people in this country. There is never going to be any justice, democracy or freedom for the working class in a Capitalist society. The only path forward is the active opposition to the fascist attacks by the State and its forces. The bourgeoisie inevitably use fascism as a means of upholding the capitalist system; fascism can only be finally and totally defeated in a socialist society.

# NO HELP WHAT SO EVER.....

Claimants are traditionally the least organised section of society. We have never been in a situation similar to that which aided the development and growth of trade unions. Unlike industrial workers we live isolated from each other and from other sections of the working class. For this reason the state still gets away with the general harassment that all claimants face simply because they are either temporarily or permanently 'unproductive'. Some groups of claimants face particular discrimination on the grounds of race, sex and also homelessness.

Discrimination on the grounds of homelessness has received very little publicity; it has been kept hidden as much as possible so as not to threaten the myth of a welfare state which allows no one to live in need and hardship. There has been no effective pressure group to break through this and to present the facts of life as a homeless claimant. For this reason the Claimants Union Movement has set up a working party to look into the particular situation of homeless claimants and to publicise the nature of this discrimination.

I HAVE CLAIMED SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT AS TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE. I claimed as an ex-teacher with an address and a nice jacket and clean trousers - a respectable middle-class person. My claim was settled in five minutes and I was put on a running order, the first of the instalments arrived two days later. I have had no trouble whatsoever with the SS and my relations with them have always been cordial. However, as a member of a Claimants Union it soon became obvious to me that other claimants were not so fortunate. Many people never get what they need and seldom get what they are legally entitled to.

Shedding my middle-class persona for several days, I decided to test the system as a member of the homeless class. There is no legal discrimination between groups of people as far as the welfare state is concerned, but the rudeness of the SS and the humiliations they put people through were something I had never dreamed of before I started this test case.

MY CHANGE OF PERSONA OPENED UP A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY. I went to Marshalsea Road office with nothing but the clothes I was wearing, and saw people refused benefit because "you didn't sign on within seven days of becoming unemployed and you should go to jail" and because "I can only give you directions to a reception centre". I was sent to a reception centre, which was like a night-time prison, and later 'resettled' in a Salvation Army hostel. I was given no help whatsoever and my appearance (I wore a holey jersey and ancient shoes) and my approach (I was very humble and sorry to trouble them) meant that I was shouted at, insulted to an alarming degree. It was easy for me to be objective about the test case as I always had my snug little box in suburbia to return to, but the implications for a person actually in that situation gave no reason to show any sympathy whatever for →



the SS. The SS are legally bound to 'resettle' people and to 'influence them to lead a more settled life'. They resettled me by insulting me by making me tell my life story in front of anyone who cared to come in and listen, and then by giving me £6.56 and a weeks lodging with the Salvation Army and by telling me to look for a job. There was, emphatically, no chance of a shoes grant, in spite of the fact that one of my shoes flapped noisily everywhere I walked. I was resettled, and that, as far as they were concerned, was that.

I remember on one occasion when I was giving out leaflets at an SS office, an employee approached me and told me to leave. I did but not before giving him a leaflet and warning him that

the way things were going, he would probably be unemployed himself before long. The tragedy of the situation is that Social Security employees are themselves members of the working class and are often trade unionists, but are employed to administer the anti-working class legislation of the DHSS.

The ruling elite protect their interests well and continually adopt a policy of divide and rule. A fable tells of a young man faced with two giants. He can't defeat them himself so he hides in a tree and when they fall asleep under it he drops nuts on them. They wake, each assuming the other has hit him. They fight and eventually knock each other out and the young man continues on his journey. England's privileged few have protected their inferior strength in this way in Ireland, India and Africa; they are still using these methods to preserve their power here.

## WOMEN + SOCIAL SECURITY

On the week-end of April 23rd - 25th. the National Women's Liberation Conference was held just outside Newcastle. About a thousand women came from all over the country, many of them claimants. There was a workshop on women and claiming on Saturday morning out of which came the following call for solidarity which was read out at the general session at the end of the conference:

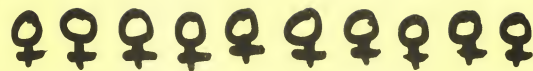
"Women Claimants are amongst those worst hit by the present crisis. Our living standards have been slashed by effective cuts in benefit rates (a 15% rise in a year when the cost of living has already gone up 22%) Social Security are trying to stop us claiming lump sum grants for clothing, bedding, big electricity bills etc. and trying to force us to have our money cut each week with 'savings' ie compulsory deductions from our food money.

We call upon the Womens Liberation Groups to express solidarity with women claimants who are fighting back at Social Security offices etc. Women employed as social security officers and social workers and in other areas of the welfare state should support every move a woman makes to assert her economic independence.

We feel that the Equal Opportunities Commission is divisive, since it is prevented from looking at the main areas of our oppression, especially the discrimination against women that exists throughout Social Security legislation...we are forced into dependency on men →

## WOMENS LIBERATION CONFERENCE

Cont.



with the Social Security system trying to get us back into the nuclear family situation, regardless of the consequences to us.

Struggles at the Social Security should be in the forefront of Women's Liberation activities. Given the problems of accomodating large conferences we would suggest that future conferences should perhaps have lower standards of facilities to take account of the financial difficulties of lots of women who would like to attend."

The Claimants Union had a stall there selling pamphlets and stickers, including the very latest Women and Social Security pamphlet. We made about £30 from this stall and a number of bookshops who had stalls at the conference took pamphlets to sell.

## DAVID ENNALS - NEW S.S. BOSS

As Wilson handed over the responsibility of running the nation (and defrauding the working class) to Jim Callaghan the first thing he started to do was change around ministers. One of the first victims was Barbara Castle at the DHSS who was replaced by David Ennals MP for Norwich North. Some of the immediate reactions by CU members was "great, thank god they got rid of Castle" but what will it really mean? An answer was soon forthcoming as our new minister started to oversee an even more repressive set of cutbacks than Barbara Castle. Not surprising for David Ennals is basically the same as Barbara anyway. Another tired intellectual with a good family background he was born in Walsall and educated in Walsall and Windsor Connecticut USA. He says he joined the Labour Party in 1945 only to appear in 1950 as a Liberal candidate in the elections. Then years followed of backroom work for the Labour Party until 1964 when he was elected at Dover becoming Barbara Castles Parliamentary Private Secretary, then serving under Callaghan at the Home Office and finishing at the DHSS from 1968 to 1970. Losing his seat in 1970 he spent the next four years directing liberal campaigns such as the National Association for Mental Health until returning to Government in 1974. Part of a liberal family his brothers are secretary general of Amnesty International and director of the UK Immigrant Advisory Service. His son is an Undertaker. Described by some as 'slightly left of centre' within the Labour Party he is already showing why he was chosen for the DHSS with the cutting of the Child Benefit Scheme and the increasing rumours of a cut in staff at the SS His address according to Who's Who is 26 Beverly Road London SW13 (tel 01-876-7953)

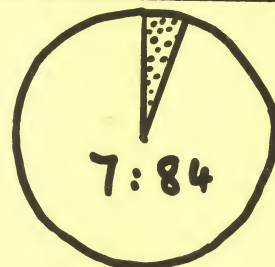
Just after the last newspaper was printed the new benefit rates to come in from next November were announced. These meagre rates are set out below:

HOUSEHOLDERS	short term	long term
Couple	£20.65	£24.85
Single	£12.70	£15.70
NON-HOUSEHOLDERS		
Single over 18	£10.15	£12.60
16 - 17	£7.80	
CHILDREN		
13 - 15	£6.50	
11 - 12	£5.35	
5 - 10	£4.35	
under 5	£3.60	

Rent allowance for nonhouseholders

£1.20

The Earnings Disregard for Single Parents is also meant to go up to £6 a week but this is yet to be confirmed and if the state of the government is anything to go by may not reach the statutes in the cause of keeping down government spending. Who knows?





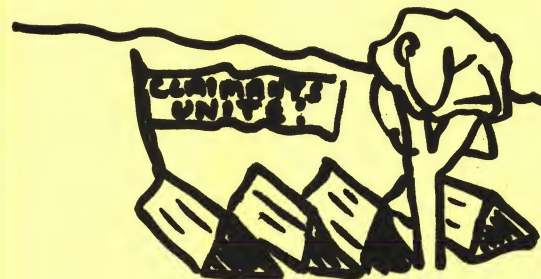
## LUTTE OUVRIERE

Once again the Claimants Union has had a stall at Lutte Ouvriere Whit Festival. This time, however, only two of us went and we nearly didn't get there at all. Held every year in a forest just outside Paris Lutte Ouvriere is a festival of Socialism where groups from all over Europe and beyond get together to discuss, politics and have a good time.

This year we had a problem when one of us got stopped at the Customs at Dover on the way and nearly had all the CU literature confiscated. Eventually after an hour of searching and cross-examination the police were content to let us on our way having taken away one copy of every thing we were taking with us. Eventually arriving at the Festival the next afternoon we found our stall and set up our display. Then for the next couple of days we basked in the heat. Although we didn't sell much literature we met some interesting people and tried to discover some more about the SS systems abroad. There was so much going on it was impossible to get a real view of everything but a good time was had. And as a postscript on returning and complaining to the police about our treatment at Dover our literature was returned with a note thanking us for "the publications which you kindly gave to one of my officers".

## CLAIMANTS CAMP

Yet again we hope to be holding a claimants camp this summer. At the time of going to press we do not have any details of where it will be held but we are reliably informed that scouts are out looking for a suitable site. At the moment the provisional date is for the first week in August so if you are interested get your local CU to find out the details. Hopefully all should be arranged by the end of June. More details from 01-790-4672



## SMASH THE NAZI MOVEMENTS

On 24th April two fascist marches took place in Britain under the protection of the police. One in Bradford organised by the National Front and the other in London organised by the British Movement. Since then there have been other marches, and numerous press reports of an openly racist nature which have led to a large number of attacks on Asians. As the police have openly taken sides on marches and countermarches and have failed to make any attempt to halt blatant racist violence the fascist groups in Britain have become increasingly confident and have stepped up their campaigns.

Although Claimants Unions have not organised for opposition to these attacks CU members have taken a lead in setting up defence committees.

Over the last few weeks large antifascist marches have been organised and the truth behind the racist attacks has emerged however as long as the press is prepared to write inflammatory articles which attack Asians supposedly scrounging of the State there will always be a threat of further violence and as long as groups such as the National Front are allowed to organise unopposed there will be a danger of this violence escalating. The Right wing backlash in Britain and other western states, following on the crisis of capitalism, is represented not only by the fascist groups like the National Front but also by the state authorities which allow them to exist. It is VITAL that we heed the lessons of the past: Nazism was allowed to creep into Germany by identical means and in almost identical circumstances. Which is why the creeping cancer of National Fascism in Britain must be stamped out NOW, before it is too late.

A situation needs to be created whereby it is automatic that any public activity by a Nazi movement is prevented.

As the newspaper stories have shown claimants will be increasingly used as scapegoats in this attempt to introduce fascism - Asian claimants more so. Therefore it is imperative that claimants and the Claimants Union Movement in particular must take a lead in the smashing of the Nazi's or else we will increasingly become victims of fascist attacks ourselves.

**NO PLATFORM FOR  
RACISM!  
SMASH THE NATIONAL  
FRONT!!**



# CHILD BENEFITS AXED!

As mentioned on the cover the Government has just gone back on its promise to introduce the child benefit scheme. Now it won't be until 1979 before it is brought back unless enough support is mobilised for its implementation now. With all the shouting about leaks etc. the real issue has got a bit lost - that the government has dropped the scheme in order not to offend the sexist attitudes of the TUC and thereby jeopardise the ploy to reduce wages, they are trying to avoid handing over men's tax allowances for children to the people who actually look after those same children.

The scheme now is to keep tax allowances and pay £1 family allowance (£1.50 to single parents) for the first child from next April. This will cost £95 million. Child benefit of £2.50 payable to the mother with no tax relief for the father would also cost £95 million. Child benefit of £2.34 would cost the government nothing (because it is the present value of tax allowances and family allowances). 200,000 families don't get the full benefit of child tax allowances because they don't earn enough to pay tax - they would have been better off under the original scheme. 60,000 families who claim FIS will be worse off whichever scheme is adopted - single parents claiming FIS already are with the child interim benefits. Child Interim Benefit is taxable and at the standard rate is only worth 30p. Family allowance at £1 will be worth minus 20p. In other words, by not claiming family allowance FIS claimants will be 20p better off. Then there's the 'poverty trap'. FIS is based on gross earnings, so £1 family allowance (or £1.50 CIB) is added on top of earnings which could mean loss of entitlement to FIS, rent and rate rebates and free school dinners. Therefore FIS claimants cannot afford to claim family allowances. Well that's one way for the government to save £60,000

Predictably the Labour Party has split over all this. Helene Hayman MP for Welwyn and Hatfield has collected over 100 signatures on a Commons motion calling on the Government to "honour its commitment to implement the child benefits scheme in full from April 1977".

Barbara Castle, Social Services minister until Callaghan became boss, forced a resolution through the Labour Party National Executive which rejected "the view that the scheme is consistent with the Government's economic strategy" and called on the Government to "reconsider its decision immediately". We'll have to wait and see what effect the women MPs can have on their male dominated Cabinet.

As family allowances, child interim benefits, etc, etc (I wish they'd decide on a name and stick to it) are deducted from benefits anyway, claimants don't win or lose any money by all this. But that doesn't mean we are unaffected by it. Family allowance should be paid to the person responsible for the care of the child. It must be realistic (£1 is an insult) inflation proof and tax free and disregarded in assessing ALL means tested benefits, including FIS and supplementary benefit. Various groups are organising against the government proposals. Like the previous family allowance campaign we must support this demand and try and inject our further analysis of how these benefits affect us on supplementary benefit.

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## WHAT IS THE CLAIMANTS UNION??

A Claimants Union is a group of people on Social Security who have got together to help each other and to fight collectively around the four demands known as the CLAIMANTS CHARTER.

1. The right to an adequate income without means test for all people.
2. A socialist society in which all necessities are provided free and which is managed and controlled directly by the people.
3. No secrets and the right to full information.
4. No distinction between so-called 'deserving' and 'undeserving'.

Each Claimants Union is selfgoverning and cannot be mandated outside the Charter. The essence of Claimants Unions is rank and file control which means that members make their own decisions at a local level at the weekly meetings of the Union. Different emphasis is placed from one Union to another on the political, social and fighting claims aspect of Claimants Union work.

For further information about your nearest Claimants Union contact the Regional Coordinating Union (see back page)

# SOCIAL SECURITY RATES

## SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT SCALE RATES

HOUSEHOLDERS	short term	long term
Couple	£17.75	£21.55
Single	£10.90	£13.70

NON-HOUSEHOLDERS		
Single over 18	£8.70	£11.00
16 - 17	£6.70	

Children		
13 - 15	£5.60	
11 - 12	£4.60	
5 - 10	£3.75	
under 5	£3.10	

### PLUS A RENT ADDITION

- 1) rent and rates in full
- 2) mortgage interest, plus an amount for insurance and repairs etc
- 3) £1 rent allowance if you are a non-householder

ARE YOU GETTING THE RIGHT AMOUNT?  
YOUR LOCAL CU WILL MAKE SURE YOU DO.

## UNEMPLOYMENT & SICKNESS BENEFIT RATES

Single person	£11.10
Wife's addition	£6.90
Married woman	£7.80
First child	£3.50
Each extra child	£2.00

## RETIREMENT PENSIONS

Single person	£13.30
Wife's addition	£7.90

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE ENTITLED TO AND HOW TO CLAIM IT SEE THE CLAIMANTS UNION GUIDEBOOK AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL CU OR YOUR NEAREST REGIONAL COORDINATING UNION PRICED 75p (30p to claimants). PLENTY OF OTHER LITERATURE, BADGES, STICKERS, POSTERS, ETC AVAILABLE. BUY NOW WHILE STOCKS LAST

WE DO NOT HAVE A CENTRALISED LEADERSHIP, BUT CUS BELOW ACT AS CO-ORDINATORS FOR THEIR REGIONS. ADDRESSES, PUBLICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CU MOVEMENT CAN BE OBTAINED BY WRITING, PHONING OR BETTER STILL GOING TO SEE THEM:

MIDLANDS  
44 Havelock Road  
Birmingham 20  
(also address for  
Publications Library)

CYMRU/WALES  
Swansea CU  
79 Brookesby Road  
Bon-y-maen, Swansea

SOUTH WEST  
Bristol CU  
54 Richmond Road  
Montpelier, Bristol 6  
(0272-422310)

NORTH THAMES  
East London CU  
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Ben Jonson Road, London E1  
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01-735-6123

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Camberwell CU  
Union Place  
122 Vassall Road, London SW9  
(01-735-6123)

NORTH WEST  
(contact address only)  
6 Cotswold Drive  
Horwich, Lancs

NEWSPAPER  
C/O Camberwell CM

YOUR LOCAL CU IS :

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

MEETING: DAY.....TIME.....

WEST THAMES  
West London CU  
510 Harrow Road  
London W10  
(01-869-7437)